

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 00550 241312Z

43

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 INR-05 SAB-01 EB-03 DHA-02

L-01 /035 W

----- 018275

P 232241Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6481

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0550

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 417TH PRC MEETING, JANUARY 21, 1976

1. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: AMBASSADOR OPENED MEETING WITH REPORT ON ARREST AND DEPORTATION OF OPPOSITION LEADERS DURING PREVIOUS DAY. THERE ENSUED BRIEF DISCUSSION OF IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES TO THE ECONOMY AND POLITICAL STABILITY AND CONSEQUENTLY TO THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. CINC INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY SOME PANAMANIAN BUSINESS LEADERS MIGHT SEEK ASYLUM IN CANAL ZONE. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ASYLEES AND FUGITIVES WERE REVIEWED.

2. TORRIJOS TRIP TO CUBA: AMBASSADOR GAVE BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF GENERAL TORRIJOS TRIP TO CUBA STRESSING MODERATE NATURE OF COMMUNIQUE AND STATEMENTS TO PRESS. HE REPORTED SOME OF THE IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIP, BOTH FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM PERSONS WHO ACCOMPANIED THE GENERAL.

3. TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: AMBASSADOR STATED US NEGOTIATORS NOW PLAN TO ARRIVE ABOUT FEBRUARY 1 FOR NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. HE SAID GOP HAS CHANGED ITS FEELING ABOUT MAINTAINING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 00550 241312Z

SECRECY OF TALKS AND APPEARS OPTIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS OF

FORTHCOMING SESSION. AMBASSADOR SAID A PROCEDURE IS BEING WORKED OUT FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO APPEAR IN THE U.S. PRESS. THE GOVERNOR CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE PAN CANAL BOARD AND SAID HIS STAFF WOULD BE COMPLETELY ABSORBED WITH THAT EVENT AND UNABLE TO DEVOTE FULL ATTENTION TO PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON LANDS AND WATERS WITH GEN. DOLVIN, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BEFORE AMBASSADOR BUNKER. HE INDICATED THAT A FEW DAY'S SLIPPAGE IN FEBRUARY 1 TARGET WOULD BE WELCOME.

4. JOINT US-PANAMA COMMISSION: STATE 3559 WAS DISCUSSED AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE U.S. ELEMENT WAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS: PATRICK CONLEY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT; GERARD WELCH, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PAN CANAL VICE PRESIDENT; RAYMOND E. GONZALEZ, DCM; COL. CLAUDE TURNER, SOUTHCOM CHIEF OF STAFF (OR NAVY CAPTAIN EUGENE RIDDICK, SOUTHCOM J-4). U.S. SIDE WILL HOLD PRELIMINARY MEETING BEFORE ITS DESIGNATION IS COMMUNICATED TO GOP.

5. NEW FRANCE FIELD: IT WAS DECIDED TO ENTRUST THIS MATTER TO NEW JOINT US-PANAMA COMMISSION.

6. PORT FACILITIES: AMBASSADOR TABLED FONOFF NOTE INDICATING GOP DESIRE TO ENTER INTO PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDING REGARDING CONSTRUCTION AND PROVISION TO PANAMA OF CANAL ZONE PORT INSTALLATIONS FOR STORING EXPORTABLE PRODUCTION OF RAW SUGAR. GOVERNOR INDICATED THAT THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS RAISED BY GOP REQUEST WHICH WILL REQUIRE CLARIFICATION. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THESE QUESTIONS WOULD BE FORMULATED IN JOINT US-PANAMA COMMISSION.

7. TOCUMENT-CHORRERA HIGHWAY: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED FONOFF NOTE ASKING HIM TO GIVE ATTENTION TO MATTER OF ACCELERATING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE TOCUMEN-CHORREA HIGHWAY LYING WITHIN THE CANAL ZONE AS WELL AS A NEW BRIDGE OVER THE CANAL. THE GOVERNOR HIGHLIGHTED DIFFICULTIES FOR FINANCING THIS MAJOR PROJECT AND SUGGESTED IT MIGHT ALSO BE DISCUSSED WITH FHWA IN THE CONTEXT OF INTER-MARICAN HIGHWAY PROJECT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 00550 241312Z

8. FULL MOON: CINC REVIEWED FORTHCOMING CPX EXERCISE "FULL MOON" SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 10-12. HE FAVORED CARRYING OUT OF EXERCISE AND PARTICIPATION BY OTHER CANAL ZONE ORGANIZATIONS AND EMBASSY BUT SAID IT COULD BE CANCELLED IF POLITICAL SITUATION REQUIRES IT. OTHER PRC PRINCIPALS AGREED EXERCISE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PANAMA00550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0237
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760128/aaaaaxxb.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF 417TH PRC MEETING, JANUARY 21, 1976
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US, PANAMA REVIEW COMMITTEE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006